

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 12-16, 18, 20, 23-27, 29, 31, 34-38, 40, 42, and 45-52 are in the application, with Claims 53 and 54 having been added. Claims 1, 4, 12, 15, 23, 26, 34, 37, 53 and 54 are the independent claims herein. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 12-14, 23-25, and 34-36

Claims 1-3, 12-14, 23-25, and 34-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,577,324 (Palmer). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Amended independent Claim 1 relates to a user interface for providing instructional information. Such an interface may include a plurality of instructional text elements (e.g., “Quick Steps” 116 of FIG. 1), each of which describes a step to perform a task, and a plurality of alternative media indicators. At least one instance of the plurality of alternative media indicators may be associated with two or more of the plurality of instructional text elements and may be selectable to cause presentation of an alternative media presentation instructing performance of two or more steps described by the two or more instructional text elements.

Palmer is not seen to disclose the foregoing features of Claim 1. FIG. 23 of Palmer shows sub-help window 780, which includes a center column 786 of subject labels. Window 780 also includes a left column of pushbuttons 782 and a right column of pushbuttons 784. Each pushbutton in left column 782 and in right column 784 is associated with only one subject label of center column 786. Selecting a pushbutton from left column 782 will present a user with text relating to the one subject label that is associated with the selected pushbutton. Selecting a pushbutton from right column 784 will present a user with video relating to the one subject label that is associated with the selected pushbutton.

Claim 1 specifies at least one instance of an alternative media indicator that is associated with two or more of a plurality of instructional text elements. However, none of the pushbuttons in left column 782 and in right column 784 are associated with more than one subject label of center column 786. Consequently, Palmer cannot be seen to disclose an instance of an alternative media indicator that is selectable to cause presentation of an alternative media

presentation instructing performance of two or more steps, wherein the steps are described by two or more instructional text elements associated with the alternative media indicator.

The Office Action appears to indicate that column 782 includes a “type” of media indicator that is associated with more than one subject label, and that column 784 includes a “type” of media indicator that is associated with more than one subject label. While not conceding the propriety of the previous rejection, it is believed that the amended language “at least one instance of the plurality of alternative media indicators associated with two or more of the plurality of instructional text elements” clearly distinguishes Claim 1 from such an interpretation of Palmer.

Amended independent Claim 1 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Amended independent Claims 12, 23 and 34 relate to an apparatus, a method, and a medium usable to implement the interface of amended independent Claim 1. Claims 12, 23 and 34 are therefore believed to be patentable at least for reasons similar to those presented in conjunction with Claim 1. Allowance of Claims 1, 12, 23, 34 and their respective dependent claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 4-11, 15-22, 26-33, and 37-44

Claims 4-11, 15-22, 26-33, and 37-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Palmer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,550,967. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Amended independent Claim 4 concerns a user interface for providing instructional information. The interface includes a search interface for allowing input of search terms, for presenting a plurality of search results, and for allowing selection one of the plurality of search results. The interface also includes an instructional interface for presenting instructional text elements describing a step to perform a task, and an instance of an alternative media indicator associated with at least two of the instructional text elements. After selection of the one of the plurality of search results, the plurality of search results and the instructional interface are presented simultaneously, and the simultaneously presented instructional interface includes instructional text elements and an instance of an alternative media indicator corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of search results.

Neither Palmer nor Brewer, alone or in any permissible combination, is seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of amended independent Claim 4. More specifically, the art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least an instructional interface for presenting instructional text elements, each of which describes a step to perform a task, and an instance of an alternative media indicator associated with at least two of the instructional text elements.

Palmer describes window 780, which includes a left column of pushbuttons 782, a right column of pushbuttons 784, and a center column 786 of subject labels. Selection of a pushbutton from left column 782 or right column 784 presents a user with media relating to the one subject label that is associated with the selected pushbutton. No single instance of any pushbutton of window 780 is associated with more than one subject label. Accordingly, Palmer cannot be seen to disclose or to suggest an instructional interface for presenting instructional text elements, each of which describes a step to perform a task, and an instance of an alternative media indicator associated with at least two of the instructional text elements.

Brewer is not seen to remedy the foregoing deficiencies in Palmer. Brewer was cited for its description of a help interface that allows searching for instructional information. Brewer is therefore not cited as disclosing, and is not seen to disclose, an instructional interface for presenting instructional text elements, each of which describes a step to perform a task, and an instance of an alternative media indicator associated with at least two of the instructional text elements.

Amended independent Claim 4 is therefore believed to be allowable. Amended independent Claims 15, 26 and 37 relate to an apparatus, a method, and a medium usable to implement the interface of amended independent Claim 4. Therefore, Claims 15, 26 and 37 are believed to be patentable at least for reasons similar to those presented in conjunction with Claim 4. Allowance of Claims 1, 15, 26 and 37 and their respective dependent claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Newly-added Claims 53 and 54

Newly added Claim 53 relates to a user interface for providing instructional information. The user interface includes a plurality of instructional text elements, each of the plurality of instructional text elements describing a step to perform a task, and a plurality of images. At least one of the plurality of images is associated with two or more of the plurality of instructional text

elements, depicts performance of at least one of the two or more steps described by the two or more instructional text elements, and is selectable to cause presentation of an alternative media presentation instructing performance of the two or more steps.

None of the art of record, alone or in any permissible combination, is seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of Claim 53. Claim 53 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Newly-added independent Claim 54 relates to a method usable to implement the interface of independent Claim 53. Therefore, Claim 54 is also believed to be allowable.


CONCLUSION

The outstanding Office Action presents a number of characterizations regarding each of the applied references, some of which are not directly addressed herein because they are not related to the rejections of the independent claims. Applicants do not necessarily agree with the characterizations and reserve the right to further discuss those characterizations.

For at least the reasons given above, it is submitted that the entire application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Alternatively, if there remains any question regarding the present application or any of the cited references, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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